

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-11 L-03 ACDA-19

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 SS-20 NSC-07 DRC-01 /119 W

----- 073024

R 011603Z AUG 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6991

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 4315

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4194

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, XA, XB, XE, XF, XH, UR, XM

SUBJECT: NATO REGIONAL EXPERTS MEETINGS

REF: A) STATE 157997 NOTAL B) USNATO 3962; C) USNATO 3821

D) USNATO 3820

1. AT POLADS ON JULY 23, DELEGATIONS EXCHANGED PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON PROPOSED AUTUMN SCHEDULE FOR REGIONAL EXPERTS MEETINGS (REF C). US REP SUGGESTED THAT POLADS DISCUSS ADVISABILITY OF SEEKING REVISED MANDATE WHICH WOULD ENABLE POLITICAL COMMITTEE, IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE WORK OF NATO REGIONAL EXPERTS, TO DEVELOP INTO THE PRIMARY NATO FORUM FOR ROUTINE CONSULTATION ON AREAS OUTSIDE THE TREATY'S COVERAGE (REFS A AND B).

2. AT POLADS ON JULY 30, POLADS AGREED TO THE PROPOSED AUTUMN SCHEDULE FOR REGIONAL EXPERTS MEETINGS (REF C) WITHOUT AMENDMENT. THE COMMITTEE ALSO HELD PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF THE REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE REGIONAL EXPERTS GROUPS WHICH GAVE HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE WORK OF THE EXPERTS UNDER THE NEW PROCEDURES ADOPTED FOR THE SPRING 1974 CYCLE OF MEETINGS (REF D).

3. DELEGATIONS GENERALLY AGREED TO CONTINUE THE RECENT CONFIDENTIAL

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MERGER OF THE EXPERTS GROUPS ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND MAGHREB. DELEGATIONS WERE DIVIDED ON WHETHER TO CONTINUE THE SPRING EXPERIMENT OF REDUCING DELIBERATIONS OF EXPERTS ON THE FAR EAST AND LATIN AMERICA TO THREE DAYS. EXPERIMENT

OF HAVING FIRST DRAFT REPORT OF EXPERTS GROUPS PREPARED IN ADVANCE BY THE CHAIRMAN, WHILE SUPPORTED BY A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS, WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED IN INTERVENTION BY ASYG FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS AS BEYOND THE CAPACITY OF INTERNATIONAL STAFF RESOURCES AND WILL PROBABLY BE DROPPED.

4. AS PREDICTED, THERE WAS SHARP DIFFERENCE OF OPINION AND CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION ON WHETHER THE WORK OF THE MIDDLE EAST EXPERTS SHOULD BE COMBINED WITH THAT OF THE AD HOC GROUP ON THE MEDITERRANEAN. OUTCOME WILL PROBABLY BE CONTINUED SEPARATION OF THESE TWO GROUPS BUT MORE CAREFULLY DELINEATED MANDATES FOR THEIR WORK.

5. ON AUGUST 6, POLADS WILL CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF FORMAT AND DURATION OF REGIONAL EXPERTS MEETINGS, RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MIDDLE EAST EXPERTS AND AD HOC MEDITERRANEAN GROUP STUDIES, OTHER PROCEDURAL ASPECTS RAISED IN REF D, AND THE US PROPOSAL MENTIONED IN PARA 1.

6. MISSION WOULD WELCOME DEPARTMENT COMMENTS BUT NO FURTHER GUIDANCE IS REQUIRED. GOODBY

CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATO04194
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740888/abbrywkw.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) STATE 157997 NOTAL B) USNATO 3962; C) USNATO 3821 D) USNATO 3820
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <20-Sep-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO REGIONAL EXPERTS MEETINGS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, XA, XB, XE, XF, XH, UR, XM
To: STATE INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005